

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 remain pending in this application with claims 1 and 8 being amended by this Response.

Objection to the Specification

The specification stands objected to as not including an application number for the disclosed co-pending related art. The specification has been amended in accordance with the comments of the Examiner to include an application serial number for the disclosed co-pending art. In view of the amendments to the specification it is respectfully submitted that this objection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Objection to the claims

Claims 9-13 stand objected to for certain informalities. Claim 8 has been amended to be directed to an apparatus thereby providing antecedent basis for claims 9-13. In view of the amendment to claim 8 it is respectfully submitted that this objection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 1-4, 6-8 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Casement (US Patent No. 5,969,748).

The present claimed invention recites a method and system for producing an output signal suitable for coupling to a display device for producing a displayed image. The system includes a supervisor control system which permits a supervisor to enter ratings, spending, and/or time limits. The supervisor is able to temporarily modify the limits by entering an override. The override includes one or more revised ratings, spending, view time limits or specifically permitted programs. Recently completed overrides are stored in memory and may be recalled.

The overrides entered by a supervisor for modifying entered limits are stored in a memory of the present claimed invention. The stored overrides may be recalled at a later time for modification and setting of new overrides. Independent claims 1, 6 and 8 each include similar limitations.

Casement et al. recites a television schedule system with access control. Casement et al. allows a user to control access to television programs based upon time, rating, content and/or channel. The user may unblock programs by entering a password. The blocking criterion is restored after the unblocked program is over or the program is no longer tuned. Casement et al is further cited by the Examiner for displaying recently completed overrides as stated in column 4, line 67 – column 5, lines 1-5. However, the passage cited by the Examiner refers to and discusses a users ability to lock specified time periods thereby preventing them from being watched. This is unlike the present claimed invention which allows a supervisor to store an override command which has been used to override a pre-entered restriction. The pop-up 62 in Casement et al requests that a user set a time period which the TV is to be locked, and when these locks have been previously stored, the pop-up 62 displays the previously stored locks entered by the user. Casement et al. neither discloses nor suggests storing override commands after the override is completed as in the present claimed invention. Thus, unlike the present claimed invention, Casement et al. is unable to recall completed overrides nor amend the stored override commands to provide new override commands.

Additionally, contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, the system as recited in column 4, line 67 – column 5, line 1 – 5 of Casement et al. does not disclose or suggest a system which stores a completed override as in the present claimed invention. In fact, in line 3 – 5 of column 5, Casement et al. states “where a user has set these values before, the system remembers the values and displays them when pop-up 62 is shown”. Thus the passage cited by the Examiner is concerned with setting of restriction values and not overrides of the set restrictions as in the present claimed invention. Recalling previously set restriction values as recited in Casement et al, is unlike recalling a completed override as in the present claimed invention. The present claimed invention allows for the user to store all completed overrides and subsequently allows the supervisor to selectively recall these completed overrides for future use. Such is neither disclosed nor suggested by Casement et al.

In view of the above remarks it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is not anticipated by Casement et al. It is thus further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 5, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 5, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casement (US Patent No. 5,969,748).

As discussed above, Casement et al. neither discloses nor suggests storing override commands after the override is completed as in the present claimed invention. Thus, unlike the present claimed invention, Casement et al. is not able to recall completed overrides nor amend the stored override commands to provide new override commands.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims clarifying the present claimed invention it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is not unpatentable in view of Casement et al.. It is thus further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

New claims 10 and 11 are added by this response for consideration by the Examiner. Support for new claims 10 and 11 can be found in the specification on pages 3 – 4.


Since the present claims set forth the present invention patentably and distinctly, and are not taught by the cited art either taken alone or in combination, this response is believed to place this case in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the matter, and to allow all of the claims in this case.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specifications and claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned “Version with markings to show changes made”.

Should the Examiner feel that anything further is necessary to place this application in condition for allowance he is respectfully requested to contact applicants attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No other fee is believed due. However, if an additional fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in a postage paid envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date indicated below.

Date

1/22/03


Robert D. Shedd, Attorney; Reg. No. 36,269

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 18 with the following paragraph:

Due to the inconvenience of having to reset the ratings limit, view time limit, or spending limit and then having to remember to reset it to the normal limits, a system for temporarily overriding such limits has been invented and is disclosed in copending application entitled RATINGS CONTROL SYSTEM WITH TEMPORARY OVERRIDE CAPABILITY, Application Serial [Attorney Docket] Number 09/475,448 [RCA89385], filed on even date herewith, and hereafter referred to as "Override Invention." With the Override Invention, a supervisor may enter temporary overrides into the system, for example to permit a particular program to be viewed which is outside the normal limits. Such temporary override, for example after the special program has been broadcast, the Override Invention system deletes the override information.

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims

Please replace claims 1 and 8 with the following new claims 1 and 8.

1. (Amended) A video signal processing system for producing an output signal suitable for coupling to a display device to produce a displayed image, the video processing system having a supervisor control system which permits a supervisor to enter ratings, spending, and/or time limits, which permits the supervisor to temporarily modify the limits by entering an override comprising one or more revised ratings, spending, view time limits or specifically permitted programs,[which stores recently completed overrides,] which stores completed overrides in memory, and which allows stored overrides to be recalled.

8. (Amended) [A microprocessor] An apparatus which is programmed to normally block viewing of programs or recordings outside ratings and /or other limits entered by supervisor, to permit or block viewing of programs according to temporary override(s) instructions entered by the supervisor, and which stores sets of expired temporary override instructions and displays the sets for reuse by the supervisor.